SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REAL TIME GENERATING, PRESENTING, DISPLAY-ING AND PAYING UTILITY BILLS ON-LINE

Abstract

A system for continuously providing information on the internet of the usage of a utility commodity at a meter includes an internet site at which the usage of the utility commodity at the meter can be viewed and at which a utility company can post pricing information for the use of the utility commodity at the meter. An automatic meter reader provides continuous information on the quantity of the utility commodity that is being used at the meter and information is transmitted between the automatic meter reader and the internet site. The utility company sends pricing information to the automatic meter reader and, using the pricing information, the automatic meter reader continuously calculates charges for utility usage and sends those charges to the internet site, where they are posted. The automatic meter reader can generate, present, and display real time energy use data and energy

billing and can allow the customer the option of paying the bill online or at the automatic meter reader.